ESSAY

INQUIRY

DISCOVERY

THESIS
Main insight or idea about a text or topic, and the main proposition that the essay demonstrates.

The work of interpretation, of saying what the evidence means.

The series of ideas that the essay lays out to support the thesis.

The data – facts, examples, or details – that you refer to, quote, or summarize to support your thesis.

The sequence of an argument's main sections or sub-topics, and the

The context or situation that you establish for your argument; why someone might want to read this essay.

The brief pieces of information, explanation, and summary that orient readers who aren't experts.

: your main insight or idea about a text or topic, and the main proposition that your essay demonstrates. It should be true but arguable; be limited enough in scope to be argued with available evidence; and get to the heart of the text or topic being analyzed (not be peripheral). It should be stated early and it should govern the whole essay.

'   : the context or situation that you establish for your argument at the start of your essay, making clear why someone might want to read an essay on this topic or need to hear your particular thesis argued (why your thesis isn't just obvious to all, why other theses might be less persuasive). In the introduction, it's the moment where you establish "what's at stake" in the essay, setting up a genuine problem, question, difficulty, over-simplification, misapprehension, dilemma or violated expectation that an intelligent reader would really have.

: the data – facts, examples, or details – that you refer to, quote, or summarize to support your thesis (and the sources they use). There needs to be enough evidence to be persuasive; the right kind of evidence to support the thesis; a thorough consideration of evidence (with no obvious pieces of evidence overlooked); and sufficiently concrete evidence for the reader to trust.

a eapdea esignsion j-maricati, a : the work of interpretation, of saying what the evidence means. Analysis is what you do with data when you go beyond observing or summarizing it: taking it apart, grappl,

Key terms : the recurring terms or basic oppositions that an argument rests upon. An essay's key terms should be clear in their meaning and appear throughout; they should be appropriate for the subject (not unfair or too simple -- a false or constraining opposition); and they should not be clichés or a